

FORTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOURNE RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1918.

TO THE BOURNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Owing to the continuance of the War during the greater part of 1918, the Annual Report of your Medical Officer of Health will be a brief one.

As you are well aware no new Sanitary Schemes have been attempted owing to the scarcity of labour.

WATER SUPPLY.

Nothing has been attempted to improve the water supply in the various villages.

No new bores have been made during the past year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Glen at Corby and the River Welland at Market Deeping and Deeping St. James are liable to pollution by the entrance of untreated sewage into these streams.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

The drains and sewers of the district have received practically no special attention during the past year. The drainage of the district will require much consideration in the near future.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The urgency of this subject demanded attention as the following figures show :—

Old Midden Privies abolished	..	..	..	..	3
Old Midden Privies converted into Pan Closets			..	..	3
New Pan Closets erected	..	..	..	..	1
New Water Closets inserted	..	..	..	..	1

SCAVENGING.

Although this is a very important sanitary matter it was impossible to deal with it during the past year, but this subject must come to the front at an early date.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The house-to-house inspection of the district has been in abeyance, but more than 878 house inspections have been made, notwithstanding the fact that your Sanitary Inspector's time has been largely taken up with his duties as Food Control Officer. The annual report of the Sanitary Inspector shows, in a tabular form, the various repairs done to the dwelling houses of the district.

SCHOOLS.

Owing to the wide prevalence of influenza most of the Schools in the district were closed on an average for periods of 4 weeks, viz. :—

Aslackby, Baston, Billingborough, Bourne, Careby, Castle Bytham, Corby, Deeping St. James, Dowsby, Edenham, Folkingham, Horbling, Kirkby Underwood, Langtoft, Morton, Pointon, Rippingale, Swayfield, Swinstead, in addition to these Dyke School was closed for Whooping Cough, Little Bytham School for Scarlet Fever and Measles, Castle Bytham for Measles, Folkingham for Diphtheria, Swinstead for Measles and Witham-on-the-Hill for Measles.

FOOD.

The Inspection of Slaughter-houses has been regularly carried out and a considerable amount of meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption. For details see Inspector's Report.

The Bakehouses have likewise been regularly inspected and generally found satisfactory.

The Cowsheds of the district still leave much to be desired in the way of construction and general cleanliness.

HOUSING.

No new houses have been built in the district during 1918. Cases of overerowing have occurred but the lack of houses has made it impossible to prevent this.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

1. STAFF.—No change has occurred in the actual staff, but your Sanitary Inspector's time has been necessarily taken up to a considerable extent with his duties as Executive Officer to the Food Control Committee.

2. HEALTH VISITORS.—There are three health visitors at work in the Bourne Rural District. Miss Saul devotes her whole time to this work and visits most of the villages in the district, but the district nurses at Billingsboro' and Stamford look after those villages in the Western and Northern parts of the district. All three health visitors are doing very good work and their visits are much appreciated by the general public.

In the near future the work of the health visitors will be even more important as fresh duties are entrusted to them. If we really hope for a general improvement in the comfort and cleanliness of the Cottage homes of the district, it is only to be attained by regular, kindly and tactful advice given by the health visitors on their daily rounds.

In my last report I mentioned that maternity and child welfare centres had been established in different parts of the country.

Our local scheme was prepared but did not get started in 1918. A complete scheme comprises advice and treatment to mothers before, during and after confinement, either at their own homes or at special centres, or, when required, in local hospitals. When local authorities provide these various services, the Government are prepared to pay grants in aid up to half the expenditure incurred.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Our Isolation Hospital with its ample accommodation and well-equipped staff has been of great service to the community this last year. There have been

21 cases of Scarlet Fever
23 cases of Diphtheria
5 cases of Pneumonia
16 cases of Tuberculosis treated
1 case of Enteric Fever

in this institution.

The arrangements made in 1917 with the Kesteven County Council to set apart six beds for the treatment of advanced cases of Tuberculosis came into operation at the beginning of 1918, and have proved a great boon as in my opinion the treatment of the advanced cases should go a long way to the stamping out of this scourge.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

Swabs from cases of suspected diphtheria, and sputa from cases of tuberculosis continue to be sent to the Clinical Research Association for an expert opinion.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The number of births in 1918 was 239 -an increase of 9 on the figures for 1917. With an estimated population (for birth-rate) of 13,197, the birth-rate works out at 18·1, slightly higher than that for the previous year.

The number of deaths in 1918 was 215 - 63 more than in 1917. With a population (for death-rate purposes) of 11,778 the death-rate amounts to 18·2, whereas in 1917, 12·81.

The number of deaths under 1 year was 24—4 more than in 1917. The infantile death-rate in this district is, therefore, 100·42, whereas in 1917 it was only 86·95.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified in 1918 was 159, compared with 44 in 1917. This great increase is chiefly due to the fact that 98 cases of measles and German measles occurred whereas only 22 were notified in 1917. Allowing for this, however, the number of cases of other infectious diseases was 40 as compared with 22 in 1917.

The figures for the various diseases are diphtheria 11, scarlet fever 23, erysipelas 4, enteric fever 2, and tuberculosis 21.

The number of deaths from infectious disease was 66, compared with 13 in 1917. The figures are— 48 deaths from influenza, 1 death from whooping cough, 1 death from erysipelas, 2 deaths from measles, 11 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 3 deaths from other forms of tuberculosis.

For the fifth year in succession there were no deaths from diphtheria, scarlet fever or enteric fever.

Of the 11 cases of diphtheria 6 occurred in the Aslackby district, 4 in the Bourne district and 1 in the Deeping district. The 23 cases of scarlet fever were distributed thus— 9 in the Aslackby district, 12 in the Corby district, and 2 in the Deeping district. Of the 4 cases of erysipelas, 1 occurred in the Aslackby district and 3 in the Deeping district.

The cases of enteric occurred—1 in the Aslackby district and 1 in the Bourne district.

Twenty-one cases of tuberculosis occurred in 1918 compared with 14 in 1917. Of these 8 occurred in the Aslackby district, 7 in the Bourne district, 1 in the Corby district, and 5 in the Deeping district.

The number of deaths in the Bourne Rural district in 1918 was 215—63 more than in 1917. This great increase was largely due to the severe epidemic of influenza which occurred towards the end of 1918. There were 48 deaths from this disease and 14 from pneumonia, some of which at least were due to influenza. After influenza organic heart disease is the chief cause of death, being responsible for 25 deaths. Cancer comes next with 21 deaths, an increase of 4 on the figures for 1917. The Aslackby district has 5 deaths from cancer, the Bourne district 4 cases, the Corby district 4 cases, and the Deeping district 8 cases. As in previous years most of the deaths from cancer have occurred in the Alsackby and Deeping districts.

Tuberculosis caused 14 deaths in 1918—3 more than in 1917. They were distributed as follows—3 deaths in the Aslackby district, 2 in the Bourne district, 5 in the Corby district, and 4 in the Deeping district.

For the first time in 12 years the Corby district heads the list of deaths from this complaint.

A great improvement in the housing conditions of the district must be made before we can expect any real impression on the prevalence of this disease.

Bronchitis caused 10 deaths, most of these in the two extremes of life.

Nephritis was the cause of 7 deaths, and 5 deaths were due to violence. Measles 2 deaths, whooping cough 1 death, meningitis 1 death, erysipelas 1 death, and appendicitis 1 death.

The zymotic death rate was 1·4 compared with 0·59 in 1917.

The number of deaths of children under 1 year was 23,—3 more than in 1917—of these 14 occurred in the first 4 weeks of life, 9 being due to congenital debility. Of the children who survived 4 weeks, 4 died from broncho-pneumonia, 2 from bronchitis, 1 from convulsions, 1 from nephritis, 1 from septicaemia.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN GALLETLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Bourne, 31st October, 1919.

Bourne Rural District Council.

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances

For the Year ending 31st December, 1918.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOURNE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Seventh Annual Report which is again in tabulated form, for although the terrible war cloud has passed over, things are anything but normal and settled down, and probably will not be for a time. The year has been a very hard one, what with the drain made upon the manhood of our country, and the holding up of raw materials, this has been very much against sanitary improvements in your district, but we hope for great things in the year 1919. Labour will then be available and we trust material will be forthcoming to remedy some of the long overdue defects so that your district will rank amongst the most progressive Rural Districts in Britain.

You will note in the tabulated column that the Food Inspection Department has been busy, but I want to make it clear that this is not the ordinary order of procedure in your district, but the Live Stock Commissioner appointed Mr. T. Holland, of Thurlby, the receiving Agent of Casualty Animals in the whole of the Bourne District, Urban and Rural, therefore this accounts for the excessive amount of meat condemned in your district.

The following are the Inspections and Visits made during the year ending December 31st, 1918 :—

House Inspections	..	..	..	878
Works in progress (visits thereto)	..	..	..	30
Slaughter-houses Inspected	..	..	..	95
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected	..	..	..	55
Visits on account of Infectious Disease	..	..	..	39
Workshops, etc., Inspected	..	..	..	112
Schools Inspected	..	..	..	14
Appointments and Interviews with Property Owners and others				73

Total Inspections for the year	..	1296
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The following are the Sanitary Works executed during the year ending December 31st, 1918 :—

HOUSE REPAIRS, ETC.

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	4
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	4
Walls repaired	..	..	..	..	1
Eaves, Gutters and Spouting repaired	..	..	..	..	1
Houses provided with Earthenware Sinks	..	..	..	..	1
New W.C.'s inserted	..	..	..	..	1
Rooms provided with Light and Ventilation	..	..	..	..	3
Yards Paved..	..	..	..	..	2
Rooms Plastered	..	..	..	..	4
New Kitchens erected	..	..	..	..	1
New Pantries erected	..	..	..	..	1
New Water Tanks	..	..	..	..	2
Houses Cleaned	..	..	..	..	1
New Drains inserted	..	..	..	..	24
Old Drains remedied	..	..	..	..	2
New Inspection Chambers built	..	..	..	..	6
Urinal repairs..	..	..	..	..	1
Privy Vaults abolished	..	..	..	..	3
Privies converted into Pan Closets	..	..	..	..	3
New Pan Closets erected	..	..	..	..	1
New Vent Shafts erected to Drains	..	..	..	..	1
Cowsheds remodelled	..	..	..	..	2
Dairies repaired	..	..	..	..	1
New Septic Tanks built	..	..	..	..	3
New Filters built	..	..	..	..	3
New Wells sunk	..	..	..	..	3
New Barns built	..	..	..	..	1
New Stables built	..	..	..	..	1
Offensive Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	32
Total					113

FOOD INSPECTION.

This part of your Inspector's work is most important to the public, and has been most exacting.

Almost every week cases have been examined of the casualty type, and they are very difficult sometimes to diagnose.

After very careful investigation the list below is the result of the condemnation made, as unfit for human consumption :—

Tuberculous Beef	..	..	..	2,464 lbs.
Dropsical Beef	..	..	..	1,334 „
Hydraemic Beef	..	..	..	588 „
Decomposed Beef	..	..	..	896 „
Two Rumps and Loins and two Aitch Bones in putrid condition	..	..	..	70 „
Hydraemic Mutton	..	..	..	400 „
Drowned Mutton	..	..	..	60 „
Putrid Veal	..	..	..	24 „
Pyaemia Veal	..	..	..	100 „
Calf with Scours	..	..	..	100 „
				6046

FOOD INSPECTION --*continued.*

Ox Plucks	..	..	..	..	5
Sheep Plucks	..	..	..	..	6
Ox Heads (with Atinomyces)			..	..	5
Lambs (with Pneumonia)			..	Carcases	20
					<hr/> 36
Five Bags of Flour with Fungus and Mite				..	700 lbs.
Seven Tins of Preserved Fruit					<hr/> 700 „

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Council, Medical Officer of Health, and all other officials for their courtesy and support in the performance of my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ROSS,

Sanitary Inspector.